

THOMAS AND MARY A. OAKS
BURGESS (BROWN)

Thomas Burgess (Brown) was Samuel Israel Burgess (Tom Brown). He got into some trouble as a young man and ran away and changed his name, so was known as Tom Brown, but his name was Samuel Israel Burgess. He was born September 24, 1852, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and died April 1, 1909, at Vernal. His father was Samuel Israel Burgess, who was born in England in 1821. His mother was Miranda Hartwell. She was born in 1828 and she and Samuel were married December 12, 1850. Mary A. Oaks Burgess (Brown) was born November 30, 1862, daughter of Hyrum and Sarah Ann Woods Oaks. Mary died in August, 1930, at Vernal.

Mary Oaks spent her early years living on a homestead at the mouth of Daniel Canyon.

When she and Tom were married they lived in Heber a few years and later moved to a farm in Daniel Canyon, close to where the Strawberry canal headgate is now located. They raised all kinds of vegetables, also watermelons and peanuts. Small fruits were also grown. The Indians bothered them a lot for their garden produce and food.

They were the parents of nine children: Cleo Ann, Sara Miranda, Mary LaVina, Julia, Laura Elizabeth, Mabel, Hazel, Hyrum Sterling, and Cora Abigail.

Julia and Laura (twins) drowned in the Provo River when Mary was driving across it in a light wagon in the month of March. The high water floated the bed off the running gears, it tipped over, and they were all in the water. The children were buried in Heber Cemetery.

Thomas and Mary left Daniel to go to make their home in Vernal in 1897, where Tom died, and Mary was a widow many years. She was unusually gifted in the making of quilts and all sorts of fancy work, which won her recognition in several states of the West and took a number of prizes at various exhibits.

Near the head of the canyon are small hollows—Shingle Hollow where the Alexanders ran a sawmill and Noakes made shingles. Forman Hollow where the Formans had a sawmill and Charles E. Thacker a shingle mill at the forks of the hollow. Small streams

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coursed down all of these hollows and canyons, emptying into Daniels Creek.

Hyrum Oaks was one of the first settlers of Provo Valley and eventually took up ground at the mouth of Daniels Canyon, from where you can look out over the valley. Tom Brown, a relative, lived down in the creek bottoms where he could raise garden crops, sweet potatoes, and peanuts. Hyrum Oaks went through the canyon into Strawberry Valley to cut wild hay for his stock. In 1879, Hyrum, with the help of William Bethers, surveyed a canal at the north end of Strawberry Valley with a spirit-level and plumb-bob to bring water over into Daniels Canyon by way of McQuire. He also operated a sawmill. Joe Jacobs lived just above the homes of Oaks, and Jim Ivie near the present site of the Strawberry headgate.